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AMPOL CUP RACE HOTTING UP

All five PSL clubs reached the quarterfinals of the NSW Ampol Cup — but two, St. George and Marconi, made it only on goal difference.

Only Sydney Olympic collected maximum points in the group matches.

Of the PSL teams, St. George and Marconi both suffered one defeat apiece, while Sydney City, last year's glamor side, played two draws.

At least one State League club will reach the semifinals — the winner of the Melita v Yugal match.

In this game two of Sydney's brightest young coaches, Tony Schwarz and Raul Blanco, will be keen to add to their fast rising reputation.

Sydney's large Italian community will be split when Marconi and APIA clash head on, settling an old, simmering and friendly feud.

Several of the Young Australia players back from Paraguay are expected to turn out with their teams on the weekend: Krncevic, Hall, Woodhouse and Rowden.

One double-header will be played on Saturday evening at Marconi Stadium and the other on Sunday afternoon at Barton Stadium.

With the start of the PSL and State League seasons approaching, most clubs are shifting into top gear.

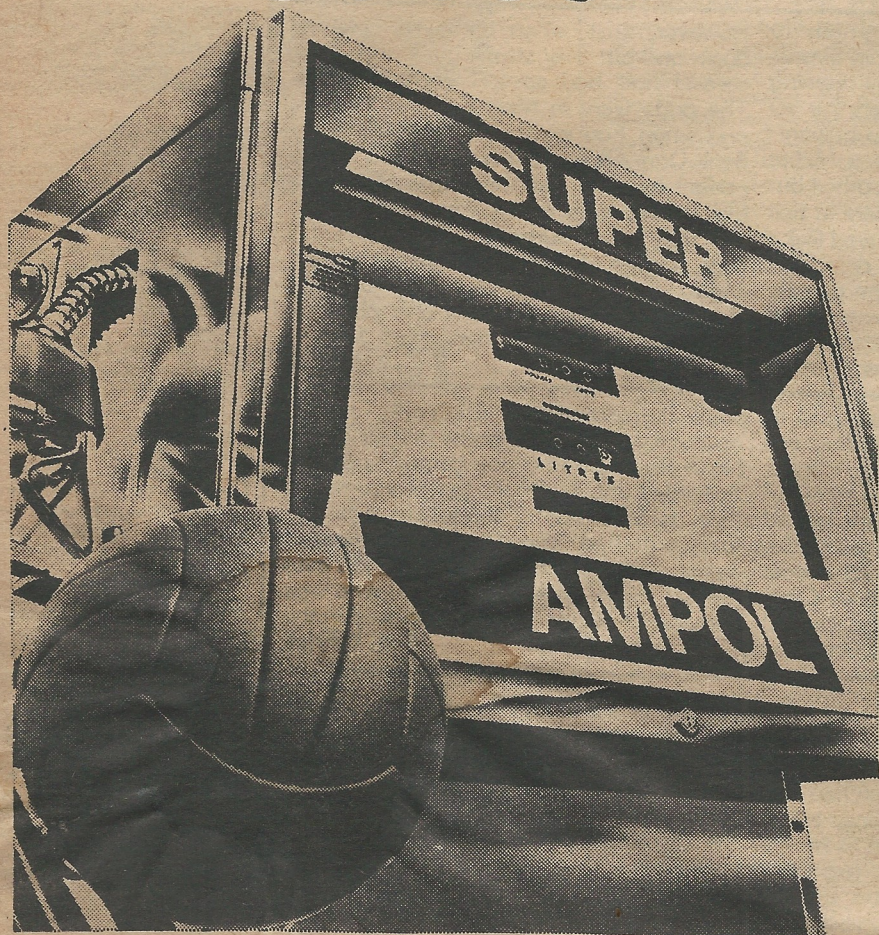
Coaches are trying to find a settled combination and slot their newcomers into their teams.

Our tips for the semifinals: APIA, St. George, Melita and Sydney City.

Happiness is spilling over... Yugal striker Branko Karanfilovski is being carried off by a solid and obviously delighted supporter after Sunday's match which swept Yugal into the Ampol Cup quarterfinals. Fullback Seki Radovac and three junior fans provide a proper escort. This is the first real success of Yugal for some years, bringing back memories of a once great club which, among others, won the now defunct Australia Cup.



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Any, many, miney, mo, will it be a TV show?

TV or not TV, that is the question John (Hamlet) Frank has been pondering for weeks and Australia's soccer-loving viewers may not know the answer until March.

Last week's TV network meeting in Melbourne agreed on screening PSL matches but left the details to be worked out later.

It is almost certain, however, that the majority of matches will be recorded in Adelaide, Canberra and Newcastle.

Melbourne, because of Channel 9's interest, is likely to record some local games though not regularly, while Sydney and Brisbane may miss out altogether.

However, chances are that even in these cities PSL games will be screened, showing them from other centres.

John Frank said this week that the days and timeslots of the programs would also be announced later.

"I certainly hope that the channels can bring forward the times but there is no guarantee."

Frank said this year's PSL TV shows will have a "greater emphasis" on Canberra, Adelaide and Newcastle and "minimal emphasis" only on the other cities.

He said he wasn't worried about the Philips sponsorship even though it was originally tied to TV exposure.

"I feel Philips wouldn't cancel their contract even in the unlikely event of having no TV matches," he said.

"I can't speak for them, of course, but the way I see it Philips in the first two years have received on TV and off it many unexpected benefits through their marriage with the PSL.

"I have said it before and I'll say it till I'm blue in the face, that in all the media exposure TV is the most important.

"Yet it wouldn't be a major blow if for a short period of time some cities had no PSL matches at all."

Frank said it would be improper for him to comment on the possibility of switching from Channel 10 to another station.

"If 10 shows our programs even if they don't record many or any matches in Sydney, we can't approach another channel.

"So it would be unethical even to suggest whether another channel is interested."

— A.D.

AMPOL CUP SCOREBOARD

SYDNEY CITY

1 (1)

SYDNEY CITY: Pezzano, Kershaw, Trenter, O'Connor, Fonseca, Stevenson, Souness, Barnes, Campbell, Smith (Marcus Silva 46m), H. Silva.

Goals: 1-0 H. Silva (21m), 1-1 Griffiths (50m).
Referee: T. Davies. **Crowd:** 488 (double-header).

AVALA

1 (0)

AVALA: Mikolajczyk, Rnjak, Deller, Barton, Gray, Patterson, Vasiljevic (Jancek 46m), Durisic, Bateman, Kodor, A. Griffiths.

Avala gave Sydney City plenty of trouble. The State League side threw everything at them in the second half, and were unlucky not to come away with maximum points. City once again scored an early goal: John Stevenson broke down the middle and sent a pass wide to Murray Barnes, whose first-timer was dropped by goalkeeper Mikolajczyk. The ball ran free to Hilton Silva, who slammed it past the sprawled goalkeeper. The PSL side

eased off and began to play at a slow pace. In the 50th minute they became too complacent and Avala's Alan Griffiths made a long run down the left. He finished off with an angled 40-metre drive that ricocheted off the post and went in. Avala were inspired by the goal and City had a real fight on their hands. Despite several near misses Avala could not break through.

— S. Mutimer

TOONGABBIE

5 (1)

TOONGABBIE: James, Finch, Taylor, Pena, Parkhouse, Hormazabal, Cuk, Harding, Fisher (Benito De Valle 76m), Izatt, Pollard.

Goals: 1-0 Fisher (3m), 2-0 Cuk (62m), 3-0 Fisher (70m), 4-0 Izatt (80m), 5-0 Pollard (85m).
Referee: G. King. **Crowd:** 488 (double header).

KU-RING-GAI

0 (0)

KU-RING-GAI: Taylor, Chambers (sent off), Geekie, Malone, A. Robertson, Lee, Hill, Kinsey, R. Smith, Vousden, K. Smith.

Four goals scored in the last 23 minutes saw Toongabbie romp in 5-0 over Ku-ring-gai. New signing Alan Fisher opened the scoring in the third minute by heading in a Ricky Hormazabal corner. It was not until the 62nd minute that the Demons found the net again. Ku-ring-gai gave them plenty of problems, and had it not been for excellent 'keeping by Bruce James and clearances by Laurie Parkhouse off the line, the final scoreline would have been much closer. Ku-ring-gai

played well in the first half and many chances fell to tall striker Robbie Smith. After the interval they fell apart and allowed the Demons to roam free. Peter Cuk scored the second after an accurate cross by Steve Pollard. Seven minutes later Fisher tapped in a Jimmy Izatt pass. A further 10 minutes and Dave Harding fed a lovely pass to Izatt, who made it 4-0, and then Pollard completed the rout at 5-0 with five minutes remaining.

— S. Mutimer

YUGAL

1 (0)

YUGAL: Berry, Radovac, Duarte, Prgomelja, Klemperer, Purac, Tanoski (Travini 22m), Miha-jlovic, Karanfilovski, Gallifuoco, Delaney.

Goals: 1-0 Karanfilovski (53m), 1-1 Hogg (58m).
Referee: W. Phelps. **Crowd:** 3256 (double-header).

AUBURN

1 (0)

AUBURN: Gisbourne, Cornet, Woods (McKendrick), Glen Fairclough, Dobson, Field, McDonald, Juchniewicz, Sundstrom, Hogg, Peters (Leak 40m).

It was only late misses by Branko Karanfilovski and Tom Mihajlovic that meant that Yugal did not gain a win instead of a draw. They had the better of play in a match that did not reach high standards, but too often they gave away advantages by being too hotheaded. Duarte, Mihajlovic and Karanfilovski all received cautions, and how Radovac missed at least a caution is the mystery of the game. In a heated moment midway in the second half, and with players milling around him, referee Wal Phelps showed Mihajlovic a red card after which the

player deliberately kicked the ball away as a freekick was about to be taken. Mihajlovic was lucky when Phelps acknowledged his mistake and replaced it with a yellow as a slanging match appeared to be going on. The goal for Yugal came in the 53rd minute after Ron Delaney had escaped three defenders along the left and got the ball away to Karanfilovski. A Bobby Hogg header from McKendrick's cross brought the equaliser, but it was not enough to give Auburn the extra point that they needed to make the quarter-finals.

— K. Gilmour

MARRICKVILLE

0

MARRICKVILLE OLYMPIC: Evans, Kable, Penman, Wignall, Sheldrick, Zeros, Williams, Brown, Balafas, Stevenson, Ramish.

Goals: 0-1 Eaton (4m), 0-2 McIntosh (22m), 0-3 Wignall o.g. (64m), 0-4 Raskopoulos (65m), 0-5 McIntosh (67m), 0-6 McIntosh (70m), 0-7 Jamieson (75m).
Referee: P. Rampley. **Crowd:** 3256 (double-header).

SYD. OLYMPIC

7 (2)

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier, G. Allan, Ainslie, Bell (Wilson 67m), Gibson, Cross, Laing, Raskopoulos, Jamieson, McIntosh, Eaton.

Marrickville had looked a handy enough team against other opposition, but this time they faced an Olympic that were in a mean mood for the first time in Sydney this season. From the moment in the fourth minute that Clive Eaton blasted in the first goal from way out in the park, Marrickville had no answer. If they did get within range Olympic weaved their way out of trouble after gaining possession. In the 61st minute their goalkeeper Gary Meier was called upon for a phenomenal diving save from a runaway Ross Brown shot, but after that Marrickville again

paled back into insignificance. For the rest it was a procession of Olympic goals, culminating in four in one six-minute burst. Dave McIntosh netted three, one each from Eaton, Raskopoulos and Jamieson and an own goal from John Wignall. McIntosh's first goal was well worthy of mention due to the brilliant lead by Alec Jamieson. After cutting out his man, Jamieson looked for McIntosh on the far post and found him with a glorious cross that the big fellow drove into goal with a smashing header.

— K. Gilmour

CROATIA

2 (1)

CROATIA: Watson, A. Kovacic, Cagalj, Basic, Smith, Vidiac, Mullen, Savor, Abonyi, M. Kovacic, Cootes.

Goals: 1-0 Abonyi (27m), 2-0 Cootes (68m), 2-1 O'Connor (79m).
Referee: D. Rennie. **Crowd:** 4150 (double-header).

ST. GEORGE

1 (0)

ST GEORGE: Fraser, Harris, Della Pica, Holmik, R. O'Shea, Grosse, Hensman, J. O'Shea, Matic (Duarte 71m), Cotton, O'Connor.

It seemed as if St. George were doing their utmost to avoid gaining a place in the final eight of the Ampol Cup with this performance, and they came within a whisker of doing so. With Croatia leading 2-0, Abonyi sent a wicked, curling shot inches past the post. Had that gone in there would have been no way the Saints could have pulled back, and Croatia would have gone through with the necessary three-goal win. Throughout, Croatia looked more at ease, playing the ball around at a leisurely pace until gaps appeared. The Saints did everything far too hurriedly and as a result lost the ball before they ever had a chance to move into attack. The

lack of a ball winning midfield was the difference between the two sides, for whereas Croatia had Savor, Mullen and Vidiac, St. George had no aggressors. At the back Cagalj was in majestic form and blocked out the Saints for 80 minutes, till one fatal lapse. Abonyi surprised no St. George fans, and delighted his own supporters, with a superb freekick goal in the first half, and throughout relished the encounter with his former club. Mention should also be made of the Saints' goal, a super volley from O'Connor inside the area, which confirmed their place in the quarter finals.

— S. Dettre

MELITA

1 (0)

MELITA: Bracklow, Ververis (McPherson 54m), Mikas, Yamine, McDonald, Darvill, Parker, McAusland, Allan, Farrugia, Jones.

Goal: 1-0 Allan (69m).
Referee: B. Graham. **Cautions:** Morrow. **Crowd:** 4150 (double-header).

GRANVILLE

0

GRANVILLE: B. Hoare, Barren, Selfridge, Biglands, Lackey, Forwood, Fraser, Bates (Abbott 82m), Gauci, Morrow, McGrath.

Granville have gone from strength to strength in recent weeks and could almost have pulled off a major shock by drawing with Melita. They tackled fiercely for 90 minutes, utilised the off-side trap brilliantly, and never gave up against a Melita side that played some smooth football but lacked luck. Parker and Jones were in fine form, especially Parker, who weaved like a man possessed past Granville defenders to send cross after cross into the penalty area. For the first half hour it was almost one-way traffic to Barry Hoare's goal, and the talented keeper was kept busy.

However, just when Granville seemed down and out they struck back and in the second half had several great chances. The odds were in Melita's favor though, and when Farrugia burst down the right flank Don Allan met his cross and sent a perfect header past the keeper. Granville lack a cultured ball player in midfield: with one they could surprise some teams this year, for the players move well as a unit. Melita deserved the win, but perhaps should have calmed down and patiently built up chances rather than surging forward.

— S. Dettre

SUTHERLAND

1 (0)

SUTHERLAND: Craggs, Woods, Basterfield, R. Smith, Dal Forno, K. Schumann, Murphy, Watkiss (R. Schumann 80m), P. Smith, Beggs, Stoddart.

Goal: 1-0 Watkiss (48m).
Referee: R. Lorenc. **Crowd:** 622 (double-header).

ARNCLIFFE

0 (0)

ARNCLIFFE: Rogers, Girjanic (Martin 35m), Oldham, Sidey, Hall, Muscovits, Smart, Bankhead, Marchant, Schroeder (Piggott 50m), Baker.

Arncliffe threw everything they had at Sutherland in the first 20 minutes, but they could not do enough to break through although Sutherland had three regulars out of the team. Arncliffe looked good around the edges and in the middle, but they continually failed to get people into the box in scoring positions. Once John Watkiss had scored from a perfect set-up by courtesy of John Stoddart, the

Shire dominated but they only cruised because they had the game in their grasp. Norm Rogers had a fine game in goal for Arncliffe. Bob Oldham, the newcomer to their defence from Toongabbie, has certainly stiffened up an area that conceded so many goals last year. Arncliffe did miss the running of Richie Schroeder, who was carrying an injury and was replaced in the 50th minute.

— R. Dewick

BANKSTOWN

4 (2)

BANKSTOWN: Greedy, Thompson, C. Rootsey, Gauld, Lembyrk, Porter, Mason, Lee, Daley, Butler, Angelopoulos.

Goals: 0-1 Arispon (25m), 1-1 Daley (35m), 2-1 Daley (40m), 2-2 Valeri (45m), 3-2 Lee (75m), 4-2 Porter (90m).
Referee: B. Fowler. **Crowd:** 622 (double-header).

MONARO

2 (2)

MONARO: Palec, Heywood (sent off 59m), Venturelli, O'Neill (De Paoli 75m), Charles, Fay, Bourke, T. Morsello, Valeri, Arispon (J. Morsello 46m) Trajinovski.

Bankstown had a creditable game due to the opportunities created by their better use of the wings. They were on top even before Ian Heywood was dispatched with the score at 2-2. New signing Norrie Porter made a good impression in his debut, and generally their better teamwork promises them a better season than in 1978. Laurie Palec covered himself with glory in the final 20 minutes, and without

— R. Dewick

FINAL TABLES

GROUP A

	W	D	L	F	A	P
APIA	3	1	—	10	3	7
Sydney City	2	2	—	7	3	6
Toongabbie	1	1	2	8	6	3
Avala	—	3	1	4	8	3
Ku-ring-gai	—	1	3	3	12	1

GROUP B

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sutherland	3	1	—	9	5	7
Marconi	2	1	1	11	4	5
Bankstown	2	1	1	8	10	5
Monaro	—	2	2	7	11	2
Arncliffe	—	1	3	4	9	1

GROUP C

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sydney Olympic	4	—	—	12	2	8
Yugal	2	1	1	7	5	5
Auburn	1	2	1	5	4	4
Marr. Olympic	—	2	2	4	12	2
Revesby	—	1	3	3	8	1

GROUP D

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Melita	3	—	1	11	2	6
St. George	3	—	1	10	4	6
Croatia	3	—	1	9	5	6
Manly	1	—	3	4	14	2
Granville	—	—	4	3	12	—

BRISBANE

— From Jim Binnie —

City and Lions played a 0-0 draw last Sunday in their "European Cup style" pre-season challenge.

Two matches were played on a home and away basis and Lions won the ante (a reported \$3000) by virtue of the away goals counting double in event of a tied aggregate score; Lions had scored in the 1-1 draw at Perry Park the previous week.

Lions coach used the game to have another look at two "discards" of former years.

Ian Lawrie, who has been on loan to a local side, was given another run at fullback, and Ian Steele, who left the fold three years ago, a full run at the striker's role.

Both lads appeared to find the pace a bit quicker than what they have been used to, understandable in Steele's case, but forgivable in Lawrie's, as he has been playing as a central striker and will obviously take time to learn the elements of good fullback play.

Nero Saffich had City's new overseas signing Lowe playing on the flank and though he showed nice touches and a good understanding of the game, he is obviously not an out and out striker, the type of player City have needed since the advent of PSL soccer.

City's squad is now getting a decidedly heavy look in the back four department.

Philips Industries, our national sponsors, are making a determined effort to take the game to the people who matter in this, the third year of their sponsorship.

On Wednesday evening at Brisbane's Park Royal Motel a function was held to take the message to local media chiefs and local distributors. Herman Huyer, Philips' Australian chief, and Sir Arthur George, deemed the evening important enough to fly from Sydney and the "top" table gave the event some importance with Deputy Premier Dr Edwards; Minister for Sport, Tom Newberry; and Alderman Mellifort representing the Lord Mayor.

The men who originated the brainchild, the local Philips manager and Queensland soccer boss, Bill Waddell, completed the numbers.

This sort of function has been long overdue in Queensland and it is hoped that considerable mileage is made from a very good idea.

Grange Thistle, one of the few really go-ahead clubs in Brisbane, have a \$200,000 clubhouse nearing completion at their Lanham Park complex.

The club makes no secret of its Philips League aspirations and there is no doubt that they appear to have their priorities in the correct sequence.

With their "better than most" ground, topclass floodlights, a beautiful new clubhouse and the makings of a good team, they are a threat the "big four" had better not ignore in this first year of PSL relegation.



George Potter.

AMPOL CUP 1979

AMPOL

ALL-ITALIAN CLASH WITH LITTLE LOVE LOST

— By Keith Gilmour —

Tony Schwarz's young Yugal team earnt a quarter final Ampol Cup place and now go into battle against the crowd-pleasing Melita Eagles side.

Said Schwarz, after Sunday's draw with Auburn: "Three of my boys should have been in South America with the Young Socceroos."

"I believe that Branko Karanfilovski, Sam Gallifuoco and David Travini should have been given the chance to show what they can do."

"If they had gone I am sure we would have had better results."

The team gets its big chance against a Melita that is simply bristling with enthusiasm and ability.

In fact, Schwarz does admit that his shoestring budget team is the underdog for the important clash of the State League teams.

It came as no surprise that the other State League big name, Sutherland, is in there.

They took their group ahead of Marconi, and did it fully on merit.

Strangely enough, the round robin portion ended with St. George just edging in after Croatia had returned to form to defeat them 2-1.

Croatia just missed out on goal difference, but they are again making their name, just as they did in the 1978 Philips Cup when they eliminated the then Philips League leaders, Marconi.

Melita and Sutherland are naturals for further good displays, and Yugal are doing their best to succeed.

Judging from their most recent form Croatia and Toongabbie, two State League teams who missed out, will be up there fighting for top positions when the competition proper kicks off.

APIA v MARCONI
The result could be determined by the personnel fielded by the respective teams on the day.

For instance, Marconi's chances must increase if Roberto Vieri is back in the team and completely fit.

They must gain again if Eddie Krncevic is back from Paraguay and in good shape.

Marconi, in spite of their quest for another midfielder, look brittle in the fullback position not filled by Paul Degney on the day.

APIA's present line-up, which will undergo some change by the time the Philips League starts, is yet to gain the benefit of their new man, Rosario Rampanti.

They have already done enough to show that Jim Adam will field a strong team.

In fact it is good to note that Brian O'Donnell and John Vernon are showing the form that they could not often find in their first year here under former Wests' coach Mike Laing.

Also showing out well is Eric Caruthers, who did so little last year but looks every inch a PSL man to date.

One senses that this preliminary skirmish of the Italian-backed clubs will be a cliff-hanger, with APIA possible surprise winners if Vieri is not to the fore.

It should be a pipe-opener for things to come.

SYDNEY CITY v SUTHERLAND
There is no room here for Sydney City to try out young Brazilian talent — better to use them in the State First Division side and see what they can do.

City must be favored for this encounter, as it seems that experienced John Stoddart is going

to the UK for a trip and his football future is up in the air.

Sutherland have benefited from his grafting along the wings as he has laid on a number of their goals.

Craig Hall should be in the team after the South American trip, but injured Peter Wykes might still be out.

There is no doubt that John Watkiss' guile will be needed against his old club, even if the 37-year-old former Socceroo would rather play for half the match.

City are missing Eddie Thomson, who is due back from his Scottish trip, so if Sutherland press hard enough they could get a reward.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v ST GEORGE

In this match it will be a case of the real Olympic or the real Saints being called upon to stand up.

Olympic played very ordinary football until they massacred Marrickville last week.

Saints looked the part, but then fell away against eager Croatia.

Maybe the absence of in-form Duggie Utjesenovic was Saints' big loss last week.

They appear to have struck gold in Dragan Matic, an extremely talented forward.

Will Roy Cotton, ex-Aldershot, be the man they need? He has all the talent, provided that he gets on with the game and leaves the referees to do their own thing.

Personally, I rather think the Saints will return to form and edge out Olympic, who need to get Clive Eaton right into the mood to make him a 90-minute grafter once again.

On the other hand, Joe

Marston's men did look the goods last Sunday, and are certainly in with a chance.

YUGAL v MELITA
It is hard to see how Yugal can break down the Melita defence, even allowing that the absence of injured Howard Hadley is a blow to them.

Brian Parker and Don Allan are the particular Eagles who are likely to cause trouble, and if Yugal cannot hold them then the whole ball game will be over.

It is worth recounting how Granville made it extremely hard for Melita last week, and Yugal's hope will be to similarly upset the Melita style, or at least to catch them unawares with the counter-attacks of which they are capable.

Although it comes as second nature to Dragan Purac to pull off some extraordinary tricks with the ball, showmanship does not win matches.

One must admire his cheek in completing a pass by cannoning the ball to his man off his opponent's legs, but two misses to one accurate pass from easy positions is just not good enough.

Melita to win, but a hard struggle is likely due to Yugal's recently-found zeal.

UMBRO CUP

The Umbro Cup for Second Division clubs kicks off this weekend with double-header fixtures at Guildford Park, Meadowbank Park and Mackey Park.

Matches, to start at 1.45pm and 3.30pm, will be played between: West Ryde Rovers v Bathurst, Gladesville-Hornsby v Dee Why at Meadowbank; Marrickville v Port Hacking, Yagoona v Baulkham Hills at Mackey Park; Lethbridge Park v Bondi Marines, Gladesville Ravens v Guildford County at Guildford Park.

Finals of the Umbro Cup will be played on March 18.

Meanwhile, play in the Umbro International Shield continued last weekend.

Results were:
Sydney Olympic v Warringah 1-1; University of NSW v Blacktown 3-2; APIA v Queens Park 1-3; Wollongong v Belmore 1-0; Polonia v Marrickville 2-0; Nepean v North Sydney Inter 3-2; St. George v Revesby Workers 1-0.

Fixtures for the weekend are:
Saturday: Revesby Workers v Belmore, Marrickville v Nepean, Cook Park. Sunday: University of NSW v Queens Park, St. George v Wollongong, Prince Henry Hospital, North Sydney v Polonia, Sydney City v Sydney Olympic, Chopin Park; Blacktown v APIA, Francis Park.

The finals have been scheduled for March 10.

— Charles Spiteri

GROUP A					
	APIA	Sydney	Avala	Ku-ring-gai	Toongabbie
APIA .....	..	0-0	5-1	3-1	2-1
Sydney City	0-0	..	1-1	3-1	3-1
Avala	1-5	1-1	..	1-1	1-1
Ku-ring-gai	1-3	1-3	1-1	..	0-5
Toongabbie	1-2	1-3	1-1	5-0	..

GROUP B					
	Marconi	Sutherland	Monaro	Bankstown	Arncliffe
Marconi .....	..	1-2	1-1	5-0	4-1
Sutherland	2-1	..	4-2	2-2	1-0
Monaro	1-1	2-4	..	2-4	2-2
Bankstown	0-5	2-2	4-2	..	2-1
Arncliffe	1-4	0-1	2-2	1-2	..

GROUP C					
	Olympic	Auburn	Yugal	Marrickville	Revesby
Olympic .....	..	2-1	2-1	7-0	1-0
Auburn	1-2	..	1-1	1-1	2-0
Yugal	1-2	1-1	..	2-1	3-1
Marrickville	0-7	1-1	1-2	..	2-1
Revesby	0-1	0-2	1-3	1-2	..

GROUP D					
	St. George	Croatia	Manly	Melita	Granville
St. George	1-2	2-1	2-0	5-0
Croatia	2-1	..	3-1	0-2	4-1
Manly	1-2	1-3	..	0-8	2-1
Melita	0-2	2-0	8-0	..	1-0
Granville	0-5	1-4	1-2	0-1	..

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Stunning view of Barton Stadium with a British Airways Jumbo sweeping over the ground on its way to landing at Mascot.

Official NSW Federation program

AMPOL CUP QUARTERFINALS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24:

Sutherland v Sydney City 7.30pm, Marconi Oval
APIA v Marconi 9.15pm, Marconi Oval
Early match: Mini-Ampol Cup semifinal at 6pm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25:

Melita v Yugal 2.15 pm, Barton Stadium
Sydney Olympic v St. George 4.00pm, Barton Stadium
Early match: Mini-Ampol Cup semifinal at 12.30pm

**Next week:
AMPOL CUP SEMIFINALS**
(Venues and dates to be announced)

Canberra

Canberra City scored a morale boosting 2-1 victory over South Melbourne at Middle Park last Sunday.

City were trailing 0-1 at half time from an Alun Evans' goal but hit back in the second half with goals by recent signings Isaac Farrell and George Bailey, who only arrived in Canberra from England the previous Friday.

Coach Victor Fernandez took the opportunity to play youngsters such as Phil Reis, Joe Arquero, Bernie Lustica and Kosta Taleviski.

The team played lively, accurate "floor" soccer, outfoxing a South Melbourne side which relied upon high and inaccurate crosses.

The crowd of 2,000 was obviously disappointed and booed the home team at the completion of the match.

Edited highlights of the Newcastle v Canberra City Prime Minister's Cup first leg match will

be screened by local television station CTC7. This match will be played on March 4 and telecast a few days before the Canberra City v Marconi PSL fixture of March 11. The return Prime Minister's Cup match scheduled later in the season will be telecast to Newcastle.

Harry Williams sustained a groin injury last week and will be unable to play for two weeks. He is, however, expected to train lightly this week.

Bruce Stadium, already one of the finest soccer venues in Australia, is undergoing further development. The training pitch will soon be floodlit, while in the main stadium netting has been placed over the players' ground entrance and the grandstand will soon receive lighting in anticipation of the floodlighting of the central pitch in 1980.

— Peter Kunz



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THE PARAGUAY POSTMORTEM

Not a single goal in four games

Asuncion.—Young Australia's challenge petered out with yet another scoreless draw and a painless defeat in the second half of the FIFA/Coca-Cola Youth World Cup elimination tournament here.

At the end, Young Australia played 360 minutes of soccer in four matches — without scoring a single goal.

And that, in any language, is a fairly convincing failure.

All kinds of excuses can be made and will be offered when the trip is over but the fact remains that this Australian team lacked enough class and skill to do much better.

Paraguay easily won the tournament to qualify for the finals in Japan in August-September.

The third match, against Israel, ended in a 0-0 draw though with better finishing the Aussies could have won.

After 25 minutes Christopoulos missed a fairly easy chance a few metres from goal, then Krncevic, one of the tour's big disappointments, headed wide in the goalmouth.

The Australian attack of Krncevic, Hunter and Jennings never really worked; their very average ball skills let them down time and again.

Later in the game Israel also blew some chances, while other threats were thwarted by the brilliant goalie Woodhouse.

Only Newcastle's Tredinnick came out of this encounter without a tarnished reputation — apart, of course, from Woodhouse.

Before the fourth and last match, coach Gutendorf was said to have told his players to use their "athletic abilities" and strength against Paraguay.

This they did — with disastrous results. The crude fouls by some of the Australians sent the crowd into a frenzy.

South American spectators detest rough play at the best of times, let alone when their own darlings are chopped to tiny bits.

Davidson was sent off in the first half by the referee and two others were cautioned; when the physical battle continued, a Paraguayan was also expelled with two others cautioned.

And while this "athletic contest" went on — Paraguay scored three goals and Australia none.

The crowd, annoyed over the ruined spectacle and bruising tactics of the Australians, threw oranges and bananas at some of the players but at no stage did the match appear to be in danger of being called off.

The Australian team was due to arrive in Sydney on Tuesday — after our press time.

In the last game of the tournament Paraguay beat Israel 2-1.

This was the final order: 1, Paraguay, 8 pts., 10-1; 2, Israel, 2 pts., 1-5; 3, Australia, 2 pts., 0-5.

Crowning an incredible poor coverage during the entire tournament, the Sydney Press outdid itself with "reports" on the last match.

The "Sun-Herald" reported the 3-0 defeat with a two-paragraph AAP cable, giving no details at all.

The "Sunday Telegraph" carried a report from its correspondent on the spot.

Covering 16 inches of space, the sensationalised heading took 10 inches. The story, 12 paragraphs, devoted seven of them to the orange-throwing incident, describing this fruit as "missiles", and gave absolutely no details of the match itself.



Rudi Gutendorf's many moods: agitated, depressed, prostrate, anguished. Probably he had these and more in Paraguay where his Young Australia team gave him his baptism. Gutendorf's pessimism before the team's departure was confirmed by the results. But could anybody else have done better with a team which didn't even exist three months ago?

COMMENT

Cockroaches and vicious mosquitoes, pickpockets and inhospitable officials, terrible hotels and inedible meals, primitive training grounds, cheating opponents and unbearable travel conditions — well, these were reportedly some of the joys of the Young Australia party in South America, specially Paraguay.

If one is to believe all he reads in some daily newspapers, that is.

But can we believe it all? The same newspapers spoke of "Toninho" playing against us for Flamengo, the "brilliant fullback who scored those great goals in the World Cup" — the man actually was Nelinho — and "Zico who was named for the World Cup XI" — when Zico, the biggest flop of Brazil, was roundly castigated by the Press. And they didn't play against us, anyway.

How much credence can be given to these stories when the same newspapers describe Penarol as "Argentine champions" — arbitrarily removing this famous club from Uruguay?

If half of these stories were true, it wasn't worth entering the tournament; if a quarter of it were true, we should sue FIFA for negligence.

Let us suppose for the moment that all the horror stories coming out from Asuncion, Paraguay, were true.

Let us also accept as fact that our arrival there was a shambles, hotel bookings and training facilities weren't arranged, etc.

Wasn't it partly our own fault? Didn't our team arrive a day too soon, unexpectedly?

While the final South American tournament was being played in Montevideo, national coach Rudi Gutendorf spent a few days there with the rest of the party staying in Rio.

This means that, by and large, conditions in Montevideo and Rio were checked out in case Australia had to play in either city later.

The third possible venue, Buenos Aires, could surely hold no mysteries for anybody: the recent host city to the World Cup, the Argentine capital's facilities in almost every way surpass those of Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide rolled into one.

Well, that left only one to go, Asuncion, the fourth possible venue.

Did any of the Australian officials bother to leave Rio and fly there for a look-see visit?

Of course they didn't. We had Michael Weinstein and Brian Emery, two senior officials with the team, yet neither went to Paraguay just in case that city became the venue for the current tournament.

Perhaps it was easier to stay in Rio and keep those fingers crossed that it won't happen. Yet it did.

I am not absolving FIFA of any blame which should be borne by them for whatever shortcomings Asuncion might have had, cockroaches and all.

But I am saying quite plainly that our tour officials — and they number seven — acted negligently in not bothering to check out conditions in Asuncion beforehand; the only city which really had many unknown factors.

One feels, despite everything — including our own shortcomings — that FIFA treated the whole affair with imperial disdain.

They made the South American Youth Championships in Montevideo the preliminary World Cup qualifier and tagged to the tailend of it a play-off series.

No more than a week elapsed between the end of the Montevideo tournament and the start of the play-off in Asuncion.

Nobody knew which South American team would finish third in Montevideo which then, within a week, would become the host to the play-off series.

This sudden "pleasure" fell on Paraguay.

Does FIFA really suggest that any country, even methodical Switzerland, could prepare and stage a three-nation tournament at a week's notice; arrange venues, hotels, training facilities, match officials, communications, interpreters, programs, match tickets and many other details?

Could Australia cope with such a demand? One shudders to think.

It looks as though FIFA, despite its president's many public announcements, doesn't take the Coca-Cola Cup terribly seriously.

The FIFA committee for the World Youth Tournament for the Coca-Cola Cup is headed by two names: president Harry H. Cavan and secretary J. S. Blatter.

Seemingly, these two — in Sydney this week — have immense powers in their hands.

Article 11, paragraph 3 of the Regulations says:

"The Tournament Committee is free to form the groups for the preliminary competition or to accept the results of the Confederation Youth Tournament..."

How lovely. The South Americans had to slug it out for two weeks in Montevideo for places in the final: Australia had to play three matches in New Zealand last year — and Israel qualified for the final play-off without kicking a ball.

If FIFA expects the huge Coca-Cola corporation to keep pouring untold millions globally into this budding cup series, it had better start organising its "committee" a bit more thoroughly and run the tournaments with a much higher rate of efficiency than it has so far.

— Andrew Dettre

When, why?

We would like to get some straight answers to these straight questions:

- Why did the team arrive one day early in Asuncion?
- Did our officials in Rio notify the Paraguay authorities of their change of travel plans?
- Did the team proceed to the hotel actually booked for them or to another, Hilton-class luxury one?
- Is it true that Paraguay refused to let the team stay in this first hotel because of the exorbitant charges?
- Would the ASF consent to a visiting team arbitrarily checking in at the Sydney Hilton instead of a more modest Travelodge?
- When asked to change hotels, did our officials before moving there inspect the second, reportedly sub-standard hotel for suitability?
- What firm, written arrangements were made by our officials with the Paraguay FA for proper training venues and times, for transport, for the allocation of admission tickets?
- Were the Australian officials aware of any cheating by Paraguay over the age limits of their players; if so, did they take any action?
- Are reports correct that some Australian officials rubbed locals the wrong way with their attitude and behaviour?
- Are further reports correct that highly inflammatory statements by some Australian officials in the Asuncion media turned public sentiment against our team?
- Was the reported "pelting with rotten fruit" incident the result of this?

Is it true that FIFA left the entire organisation in the hands of the host country without any neutral observer or administrator on the spot?

Is it true that Swiss Sepp Blatter, the FIFA man in charge of the organisation of the Coca-Cola World Youth Cup, merely dropped in for a day or two in Asuncion — but left even before the tournament?

In view of the serious allegations made in the Press, will the ASF either issue a detailed tour report or, preferably, hold a Press briefing after the team's return, to clear the air?

FIFA MEN ON VISIT

ASF president Sir Arthur George revealed that financial assistance from Federal and State governments was likely if the 1981 FIFA Youth Cup was held in Australia.

At a press conference in Sydney to welcome FIFA vice-president Harry Cavan and the secretary of the Youth Cup Committee, Sepp Blatter, Sir Arthur said that he had received letters from the various governments involved pledging support.

This help will be essential for such services as communications, both within Australia and for overseas countries who will inevitably want satellite links.

The two FIFA delegates visited Australia for a briefing on the facilities available for soccer, as well as other projects yet to be completed.

Owing to the brevity of the trip the two men could only see the Sydney Cricket and Sports grounds, and were shown photographs and artists' impressions of grounds in other capital cities.

Cavan was confident that Australia's application for the holding of the 1981 tournament would be successful.

On the topic of the recent con-

trovery surrounding the play-off series in Paraguay, neither FIFA men, nor Sir Arthur, could be drawn in too deeply.

Sepp Blatter did reveal, however, that he had spent "some time" in Asuncion before the tournament began, helping the Paraguayans organise themselves, and that there had been a FIFA delegate present throughout the series: Santiago Leyden, from Argentina.

When asked why Israel, who would have had plenty of time to organise a tournament, had not been awarded it, but rather Paraguay, Blatter replied that the question of attendances had been a deciding factor.

Cavan admitted that there were many problems yet to be ironed out of the tournament concept.

Difficulties over advertising rights were minor worries, but such issues as the expulsion of two teams from this year's qualifying tournaments — Iran and Chile — for the use of over-age players are more serious issues.

The FIFA delegates left Australia on Tuesday evening, bound for the scene of this year's final series, Japan.

— Stephen Dettre

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EXPERTS GIVE BLUNT ADVICE

SKILL OR PERISH IS OUR CHOICE

— Andrew Dettre —

SKILL ... SKILL ... SKILL ... It must be obvious to all save the blindest that lack of sufficient skill is perennially retarding Australian soccer's progress.

The vast majority of our local players may have stamina, strength, courage and speed but, with a handful of honorable exceptions, don't have a basic skill comparable to an AVERAGE Continental or South American player.

Let's stop pretending — and let's start doing something about it.

It's totally immaterial whom our best teams face — second division Vardar from Yugoslavia, university boys from Taiwan, sun-burnt Kuwaitis, Guarani Indians from the "wilderness" of Paraguay — our players always look like draughthorses next to thoroughbreds.

For years, we used to say: Oh, but it's all changing now; we are becoming more "professional".

But that's a sham, too. The players are not becoming more professional at all, only a few coaches are becoming fulltimers. And that's a hell of a difference.

What do we mean by skill? Simply an easy and full control over the ball, complete mastery over that bouncing thing: the ability to handle, stroke, trap and push the ball as if it was part of your foot; the art of dribbling, selling dummies, taking the ball down on the chest, thigh or instep and making sure it stays there.

At least 99.9 per cent of our players cannot do that — and that includes some of our celebrated internationals.

In the last 10 years one could make only a few exceptions to this harsh yardstick: John Watkiss, John Warren, Attila Abonyi, Ernie Campbell ... and who else?

And all this out of the tens of thousands of boys who, allegedly, play "soccer" regularly ...

The "skill factor" invariably beats our national teams; this was the story in 1977 against Iran and Kuwait, it was the story recently against Vardar, Wisla and Paraguay.

And it will remain the same story for ever and ever, amen — unless we —

- accept that this argument is true;
- decide to remedy it.

We asked the views of two men highly qualified on this subject.

Attila Abonyi was perhaps our most superbly skilled locally-made player of all times.

Born in Hungary, he came here when 11 — and at 17 he was the toast of Melbourne. Not with his brute strength or senseless rushing about but with his almost aristocratic skills.

He is now player-coach of Sydney Croatia.

Raul Blanco, now coaching Melita Eagles in Sydney, was one of the best Argentinians ever to come here; he arrived in 1967.

After his retirement, he turned to coaching — and has yet to have a failure on his record.

He played attractive, constructive soccer — and this is what he is now teaching his teams.

ABONYI: "I agree — the average Australian player hasn't got enough skills. Basic, fundamental skills, I mean."

"How did I get it? Gradually. I must have been about five or six, back in Hungary, when I began playing with balls."

"Any balls; tennis balls, rag balls made of stockings, paper rolled into a sort of a ball."

"Kicked them against the wall, in our courtyard, I danced them on my foot in our small kitchen, down in the basement, in school corridors, everywhere."

"Eventually, without even noticing it, any round object like a ball became an extension of my foot. I could tame it, kick it, trap it, as automatically as a man steps up a footpath."

"There's no mystery in it; just years of practice. And this is what Australian youngsters don't do."

"They don't want to practise; they want to play. And not just play but play competition matches for points and cups and trophies at the age of six."



Attila Abonyi

"They haven't even got a body balance yet, most of them can't run properly, let alone control a ball — yet they are put in 'teams', then nominated for competitions."

"It's totally crazy. That's how they grow up thinking they play soccer."

"People don't coach them, they only shout at them from the sidelines. Almost all the people who act as their coaches are untrained, incompetent though undoubtedly well meaning."

Abonyi thinks our entire junior set-up needs a complete overhaul.

He suggests that less emphasis should be placed on numbers and much more on quality.

"We have far too many junior associations, clubs and teams and it's impossible to expect that even the majority will find a competent coach."

"We shouldn't be so conscious of having 100,000 or 150,000 juniors; let's worry about how many of them will be skilled players."

"Let's start proper competition for them later, not when they are six; perhaps 10 would be ideal."

"We lose some to other codes? Maybe. But does it matter if the less ambitious and less dedicated leave?"

"It's like pruning a tree. You must cut off some of the branches to ensure that the rest thrives."

Raul Blanco is equally outspoken on the subject.

"If we are honest we'll have to admit that we don't have many truly skilled Australian players," he said.

"Attila Abonyi can be regarded as an exception. Where are the others?"

"At junior level, our coaches don't concentrate enough on teaching the skills. Maybe they can't."

"I have seen a lot of junior coaching and I am amazed how much the boys are forced to run,

run and run, without using the ball."

"The result of this is that we are not producing enough technically polished players."

"We have our PSL players, many of them internationals, and even they lack basic skills."

Blanco said organised junior soccer in most South American countries started at 10.

Until then, boys were playing in pick-up games.

"They play because they love it," he said and "and here because many of them are forced into it."

"I really believe that if a boy is only interested in match play and when he has been fully outfitted, he won't make it."

"They have to grow up with the ball and by the time they join junior clubs, they will have all the skills."

Blanco said no junior training session was ever held in South America without every single exercise being done with the ball — including running.

"In Sydney you will see six and seven year old kids at training forced to run one 50-metre dash after another."

"That's a coach's idea of training. Why? Because this is all he can do."

"At junior matches you will see parents and coaches at the sideline and none of them is concerned whether a boy can handle the ball or not. They're only interested in the results."

"With this attitude we'll never accomplish anything."

"Who cares whether they win or lose just so long as the boys learn the skills. But no, here it's the other way round."

Blanco said Latin American fans expected thrills and artistry from their soccer players.

"They get excited when they see six or seven passes strung together, a clever dribble, a smart dummy, a flick or a backheel."



Raul Blanco

"The crowd responds with 'ole' as though it was a bullfight; it's your wits versus a ball."

"We praise them and encourage them to do it even better. Here we tell them to cut it out from the game."

"How can a boy even attempt to acquire skills when he is shouted at for trying them?"

Abonyi's sentiments are echoed by Blanco: we have far too many clubs and teams to be serviced by competent coaches.

"The NSW Federation has some 92 clubs and they have two or three teams each; many also run under 14, 15 and 16 sides."

"This is close to 300 teams. Do we have 300 reasonably qualified coaches?"

"Many of the clubs come from the same district, sometimes only a few streets separating them."

"Wouldn't it be better if they joined forces, cut their playing staffs — and went after quality rather than quantity?"

"I often hear that volunteers help with the kids, isn't that marvellous, how noble of them."

"Is it? My advice to them is that if they don't know what they are doing, they should keep out; they can do much more harm than good."

"I know they are trying to help — but many of them can't so why don't they see the damage they are doing?"

"Recently when I travelled in a cab the driver, who found out I was a coach, asked me to explain to him what 4-2-4 was all about."

"He also asked me to suggest to him some training exercises."

"Then he said he had been coaching some team for the past six years ... isn't that sad?"

Blanco bluntly dismisses any chance for real improvement in five years or 25 years under our present system.

"I believe we have to change our attitude and the attitude of many others in the game before we can start climbing upwards."

"These changes cannot come from the senior coaches: they work with whatever material is being produced for them at junior level."

"Recently I was in Germany and I was stunned at the high standard of junior training and skill level of 14 and 15 year old boys."

"Many years ago they were known to be hard, tough players with little skill."

"Have a look at them now. All coaching is done by qualified men and the boys respond tremendously."

"This is the road to follow. But we cannot follow it as long as we keep boasting of the large numbers of juniors without worrying about the quality."

● We invite readers, coaches, junior officials, administrators and anybody else concerned with the future of our soccer to express their views on this subject.

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Amateurs

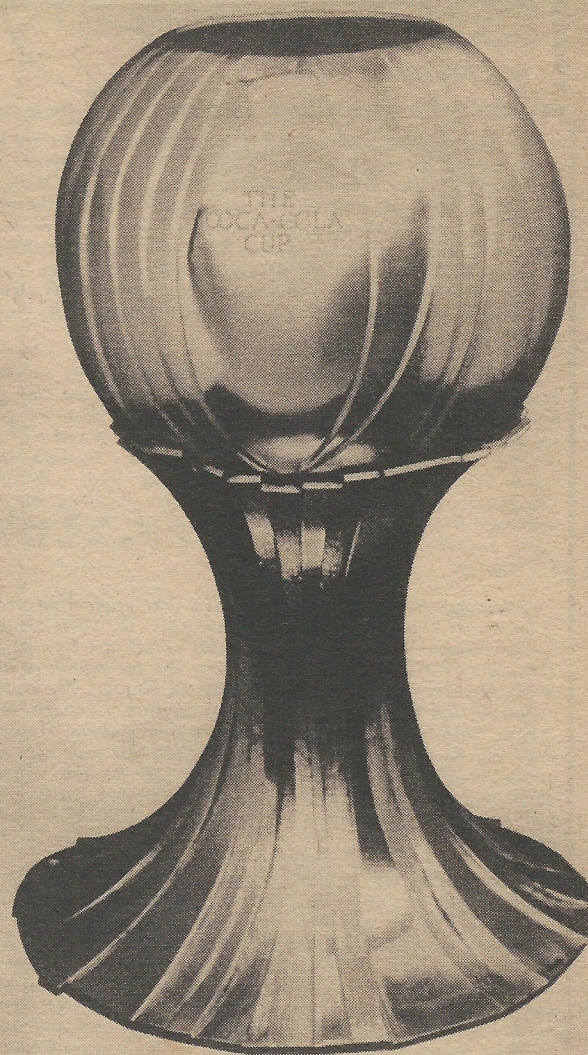
Bill Wilson and Eric Arneil were honoured by life membership of the NSW Amateur Federation at its meeting last Saturday week.

Both have given countless hours to soccer. Long-serving secretary Eric Drury did not stand — the only change to the executive.

The submissions to establish a competition secretary and to bar persons from outside NSW from executive positions were lost.

As stated last week, the latter item was raised by Drury. Bill Kennedy, publicity officer, emphasised that it was then included in the policy statement.

The 1979 officers are: President: D. McCarron. Senior VP: S. Tanner. Junior VPs: L. Fairclough (Sydney), J. Cairns (Southern NSW), T. Elliott (Western NSW), T. Ratcliffe (Riverina). Secretary: R. Woods. Treasurer: G. Churchward. Registrar: F. Broughton. Asst. Sec.: T. Blackmore. Publicity Officer: W. Kennedy.



This is the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Cup Young Australia fought for in Auckland, then Asuncion and which will be presented to the winners in Tokyo's Olympic stadium on September 9.

LAST SONG BY CICADAS

Let's hope that Rudi Gutendorf and the ASF will make a sensible re-assessment following the team's return from Paraguay.

This present under-19 team, as such, has ceased to be of any practical value and should be disbanded.

Gutendorf can retain whichever players he likes for his Socceroo squad and hope to groom them for further international careers.

The others should be thanked for their co-operation and sacrifices, including a summer of training and sweating.

Then, with a view of the 1981 World Youth Cup in Australia, Gutendorf and his assistants in the various States should quickly re-assemble a fresh squad of 15-17 years olds who will be eligible in two years' time.

It's unlikely that the ASF's far from inexhaustible coffers could stand the additional strain of keeping this new squad together for two years.

However, at least in the first year — 1979 — they could be brought together in two parts: those from the Eastern States in Sydney and others in Adelaide.

By 1980 this could be stepped up and the two sections could be integrated a few times into one unit, using the more central Melbourne as the venue.

We also feel that it would be too difficult for Gutendorf to continue fulltime with the Young Australia squads; after all, his attention will inevitably turn towards the 1981 World Cup elimination series.

So a suitable man will have to be found to plan and co-ordinate the youngsters' preparations for the next two years with assistants appointed in all States.

Sydney has two young, modern and extremely successful coaches who, not being with PSL clubs, could find the time to carry out this task: Raul Blanco and Tony Schwarz. No doubt other States have similar ones.

Whatever they have touched in recent years has turned into precious stone in their sensitive hands.

Gutendorf and Visits could, of course, retain direction under the ASF secretariat.

The present Under-19 squad led a classic cicada existence: they were created at the beginning of the summer and before the leaves start to fall, will fade into oblivion.

Let's make sure that the next crop has a better chance of survival.

— A.D.

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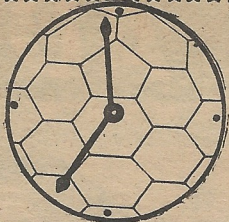
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Dee Why (2nd Div.) played trial matches against Lane Cove Utd. last weekend at the Narrabeen Fitness Camp. The third grade match went to Dee Why convincingly with a 7-0 score. Midfielder Ian Strudwick went on during the second half to score four of the seven goals in 15 minutes. The second grade was more closely contested with a 1-0 result to Dee Why, with another midfielder, Ron McCreadie, scoring. The first grade showed the score in favor of Dee Why 4-2 with Mark Bower, on loan from Manly, scoring twice and midfielder Neil Thomas and winger Andy Newton scoring one a piece.

Greystanes (6th Div.) are anticipating their most successful season since joining the Federation. Eddie Geli, the club's '78 Under-17 coach, has been appointed the senior Federation coach for 1979. With an influx of youngsters from the '78 under-17 side, several of last year's Federation players, plus new signings, one of whom is Neil Webster, a defender from Wentworth, Greystanes are set for a promising season. Training has been increased from one to two nights a week, now being conducted every Tuesday and Thursday at 7.30pm at Bathurst St. Park, Greystanes.

Lethbridge Park (2nd Div.) played a first grade trial against Polonia last Thursday evening at Cook Park, the score being 2-0 for Lethbridge. Scorers were Shawn McLeduff and Eric Hedges. Eric played for Port Hacking last season, but having moved house to the Nepean area he has signed with Lethbridge. The club has appointed Jim Strachan, defender from Nepean, as coach for this season. Third grade coach is Joe Martin from Auburn. Jersey Rd. Park will be the club's home ground again this year with many improvements being made during the off season, such as aluminium seating, floodlighting to the main pitch, pitch turf and ground fenced with Cyclone fencing, plus new referees' change room.

Liverpool City will be the new name for the Southern Districts Soccer Club (6th Div.). The Liverpool City Council has given the club their backing with the Mayor, Ald. Short, as patron. The teams will wear the Liverpool colors (gold and blue) and as soon as the ordered strip arrives, add the council emblem also. The club hopes to put Liverpool on the map soccer-wise. Approaches will be made to local business houses about sponsorship and they are looking to amalgamation with a club with similar aims and motives to utilise the ideal club house (adjacent to the ground) facilities in Kelso Crescent, Moorebank. The ground, Ernie Smith Reserve, is in superb condition after the off-season. Work is proceeding with the car park and getting the club house and ground surrounds in picture book condition. Training times are 7pm on Tuesday and Thursdays under the guidance of coach Sam Oliver.

Paddington Spanish (4th Div.) had a satisfactory trial game last Sunday playing Melita Eagles at Wentworth Park. The Spanish first grade encountered the second grade of Melita winning the game 2-0 while the second grade went down 5-2 to the Eagle's third grade.

Eastern Creek (4th Div.) played a friendly game with Pagewood. The result was 0-0 in the first grade and 3-1 for Eastern Creek in the second grade. All the club's Federation side of '78 have been retained and in addition there are a couple of new signings, one being Billy Allen, an ex-Hawkesbury midfielder. The club's first grade centre forward, John Lever, is a happier man. His wife Ann has presented him with the second child in the family, a baby boy.

Ryde District (3rd Div.) played West Ryde in a friendly game, winning the first and second grades 4-0 and 3-1 but losing 0-2 in the third grade. Goalscorers in the main match were Keith Burton (2), an ex-Greenwich player; Craig Morsley, who is only 16, and Ken Dargan.

Kingsford (3rd Div.) players and officials are beginning the season with more down to earth celebrations. Michael Peters, a first grader, was married to Margaret Stewart and Sharon Dimitridis, wife of Jim, another first grader, gave birth to a baby boy.

Guildford County (2nd Div.) had their first trial of the season playing the local club Bonnyrigg Eagles. Guildford finished on top in the second grade, winning 2-0, but went down 3-2 and 5-1 in the first and third grades. The Eagles' goalscorers in the first grade were Martin Baci, Ben Younan and one own goal while for the County Steven Moss and Jim Williams netted one goal each. For a local derby game it was a good spectacle and a very entertaining day for many supporters of both clubs.

Hurstville Zagreb (3rd Div.) has appointed Martin Franjesevic as coach for the new season. Martin has in the past coached the teams for five continuous years and was the coach for the juniors in '78. Assistant coach will be Denis Dokonal and the second grade will be coached by Jakov Kramar. Tom Nazor, the captain of the team in '78, has left the club, having decided to hang up his boots.

The five-a-side competition organised by Artarmon Willoughby Club (3rd Div.) will be held this Sunday. The competition, with 50 sides taking part, will last one day only, starting at 9.00am at Artarmon Oval. More information may be obtained from the club's secretary, Keith James, on 411-1529.

North Rocks (4th Div.) is giving four of its U17 players a chance to get a place in the Federation side. In a game against Baulkham Hills the third grade drew 2-2 and a similar result was attained by the seconds but the first grade went down 4-2.

Ashcroft (3rd Div.) were prepared to field three grades this season but Federation has decided that third division will consist of two grades each club only. Arthur Townsend has been appointed the new senior club coach for this season. Arthur is an ex-Guildford player.

ST. GEORGE BSC

seeks players for its

UNDER-18 and RESERVE

grade teams in the NSW Federation competition, for all positions.

Please ring the Club, 579-6977, or report to training at

Carss Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5.30pm and see Mr. S. Feher.

CLUB PATROL

Edited by Stephen Dettre

ST GEORGE are getting ready for a special Supporters' Night on March 10 with top entertainment provided by TV stars Johnny Gredula, Mary Jane Boyd, Helen Gubbay, Harriet and two dancing acts. During the evening all the players will be introduced on the stage.

Auburn's WILLIE HAMILTON, who seems to have settled his differences with the club and decided to stay put, is still out with an annoying knee injury which won't clear up properly.



Alan Fisher

Toongabbie finally bought ALAN FISHER and DAVE HARDING last week after a hold-up over to whom they should pay the money. Finally the \$6000 check went to the joint APIA-West's club. The Demons were especially pleased with young Fisher's performance, scoring twice in his debut. Former Socceroo midfielder Harding also acquitted himself well and earned praise from club officials.

Polonia, who started off the new season disappointingly by losing in their bid for promotion, seem to have put the episode behind them and are looking to the future. They started their Umbro Shield run in fine fashion, defeating Nepean 4-1, and it looks as if new coach ZBIGNIEW ZTRZELECKI will have the basis of a successful side for 1979.

Melita's experienced centre back, HOWARD HADLEY, was discharged from hospital last Saturday and went straight to see his teammates earn a place in the last eight with a deserved win over Granville. Howard, who was bought from Croatia Deakin, in the ACT, was injured against St. George in only his second outing for the Eagles, but hopes that his knee will respond to physiotherapy. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Some wives of players and officials at Arncliffe Scots have decided to form a SUPPORTERS' CLUB to help boost enthusiasm amongst the club's followers. The ladies will run a kiosk at all home games, and as well as selling edible "goodies" will also sell such items as scarves, stickers and badges.

Yugal will lose, temporarily, their ace striker, TOM MIHAJLOVIC, who will leave on Sunday for a five-week holiday in his native Yugoslavia.

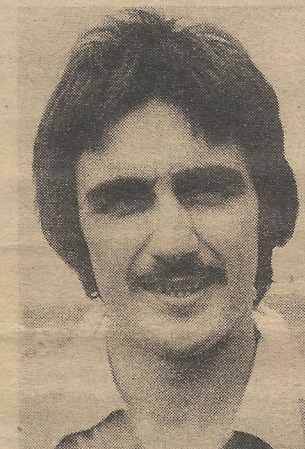
Manly stalwart ROGER MOUTET, who recently won a first team spot following spells in the thirds and seconds, was stricken with chicken pox two weeks ago and may be out of action for another fortnight.

Manly's centreback, BRUCE DOYLE, recently got engaged and plans to get married in July.

Toongabbie have made contact with their talented defender, HECTOR GERLO, but in a round about way via the mother of another first team player, CARLOS ORTEGA. Hector is still in Argentina, having returned there because of family difficulties, but reports received indicate he is keen to return as soon as possible to Australia.

Arncliffe's new signing, MATT GUILDEA, suffered a bad cut over one eye during the match against Marconi, and needed four stitches in the wound. He has claimed that the injury wasn't from a clash of heads, but from a ring worn by a Marconi player. This brings up the old argument about such items, but the laws leave the decision up to the referee who has to make the judgment whether such items are considered dangerous to other players.

Polonia's big new club building was completed just before Christmas, and is a credit to their organisation. Sydney's Polish community numbers up to 50,000, with many living in the Blacktown area as well as such centres as Bankstown and Caramar. The Plumpton location leaves them well placed to draw on the soccer resources of the populous Mt. Druitt and St. Marys areas.



Dennis Duarte

ST GEORGE's Portuguese striker, DENNIE DUARTE, was involved in a car smash during last week but escaped injuries.

RAY RICHARDS, the former Australian and Marconi star, has joined APIA on a free transfer.

ALAN DAVIDSON, signed by South Melbourne after Footscray had been favored for his signature, has only one year's practical work to do before he becomes a fully-fledged electrician.

GREG LYNCH played "on loan" from Sydney City to Bankstown in 1978. He is on transfer at \$1500 from Sydney City this year, so Bankstown are certain to make an offer for him.

A keen soccer supporter is anxious to obtain a record of NSW and Sydney premierships final table through from 1940 to the start of the NSW Federation in 1957. Details have been established for a few years in which yearbooks were published, but there are some big gaps. Would any person in a position to assist please advise Keith Gilmour on 84-2626 and the information will be passed on with thanks.

Auburn's "Prodigal Son", GARY QUESTED, is reportedly about to make a comeback to football after a lay-off of about

two years. Officials with the club have said that Gary inquired about "re-trialling" with the team, and they expect that he will begin training before the championship starts.

Meanwhile, Gary's father, the famous LEN QUESTED, is looking after the Auburn Federation Under 14 and 15 sides.

Toongabbie's hopes of bringing out English striker DEREK CHARNELY were severely hampered when he was stranded because of industrial disputes in England and now it seems he won't be coming at all. The reason is that Derek got married, and the idea of emigrating to Australia was put aside.

REX PERRY, the younger brother of Brisbane City's STEVE, has signed for Sydney club Arncliffe. The 22-year-old Rex is also a defender, and the Scots hope he will be a valuable asset. He formerly played in the Brisbane City reserve side.

Auburn are more than pleased with the progress a 16-year-old lad has made in the first team. BRETT WOODS was given his chance at the start of the Ampol Cup and has retained his position at left back with some outstanding performances.

Arncliffe Scots will hold a "met the Players Night" this coming Saturday at the Sports and Social Club. All the players and officials will attend with their wives and girlfriends, and all supporters of the club are invited to attend. For further information ring EVE WALLACE 597-4104.

Auburn's JOHN MacDONALD, who was an integral part of the midfield last year, has just resumed training after a prolonged lay-off. John's work has meant that he has been unable to attend trainings as yet, but now he will begin his campaign to earn a regular first team spot.

Toongabbie are planning to hold a friendly match this coming weekend against Newcastle KB United at their new Gabbie Football Stadium. This will act as a test for the ground before it is officially opened by the Premier, NEVILLE WRAN, on March 18.

Arncliffe are in a spot of trouble because of the sudden departure of their Federation Under 16 coach. The club is now looking for a new man to fill the position, as well as several players.



Jimmy Herron

Ex-St. George and Pan Hellenic striker JIMMY HERRON, one of Sydney's classier and most stylish goalgetters, has secured for himself a free clearance from Sutherland and is keen to link up with a new club. Phone him on 542-1228.

LIVIO SARTORETTO, former treasurer of the Marconi soccer committee, has been appointed soccer and promotions manager. Hailing originally from Wollongong, he has all but completed an economics course at Wollongong University College. His position is yet another breakthrough in the organising of soccer in the senior Sydney clubs.

Former Pan Hellenic, Manly and Croatia Deakin player HECTOR MARTINEZ is searching for a club. This talented Argentine ball player, who has been in Australia for four years, played in Canberra last year but has returned to Sydney in search of greener pastures. Croatia Deakin have placed a \$2250 transfer on his head — a figure which cannot be exceeded — and Hector can be contacted on 559-4696 at home, and 231-6099 at work.

Australian Soccer Camps operated in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide in the recent school holiday period. Over 300 lads were involved at DURAL, in Sydney, and 84 lined up in Brisbane, where the leaders were Bob Buchanan, Jim Hermiston and John Pagan. Rale Rasic, now with Adelaide City, was on the spot to handle the Adelaide course.

Polonia plan to bring out a couple of Polish players within the next few months, depending upon availability of visas and clearances. One certainty is MICHAEL CHODAKOWSKI, from MZKS GDYNIA in the Polish second division. Another name mentioned is a former Legia Warsaw player — the club to which KAZIMERZ DEYNA belonged, and which toured Australia in 1975.

What has happened to DOMENICO IELAMO? Marconi used him a couple of times in 1978, and for the rest he was on the injured list. He impressed as being a really lively player. Last week he was an unemployed reserve. He had a first class reputation in central defence before coming to Australia.

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CANBERRA COACH SEEKS LOW PROFILE

—By Peter Kunz—

Victor Fernandez, the new manager-coach of Canberra City team, is training his players hard in order to prepare them for a successful season.

However, he is not convinced that some members of his squad are fit enough.

"Brian Stoddart and Terry Byrne are out of condition and I am training them with the second team until they are trim," he says.

Fernandez has a large squad under his control but he believes that his task of choosing a first eleven will be a pleasing challenge as all his players will be out to impress.

Consequently, there will be no room in his team for "bad apples", players who don't pull their weight for the good of the team.

When asked what impressed him during his visit to Real Madrid late last year, Fernandez said:

"The performance and attitude of the fully professional players.

"In Australia under a semi-professional set-up one forgets how professionally such European clubs are run.

"If players are late for training, they are fined. We can't do this here."

Fernandez rightly believes that success on the football field, as in other facets of life, has to be earned and sweated for and to succeed the club must have a disciplined, fit and confident team.

Ideally, he would like his team to be composed largely of ball players, players who are mobile and have the confidence to shoot

at goal irrespective of their field position, a localised version of the Dutch "total football".

He regards the arrival of Harry Williams as vital to this concept for he is a fullback who can both defend and become a menacing raider.

On the training pitch the slightly built Fernandez can still sculpt delightful passes with the fluidity and grace which characterised his halcyon playing days with St. George.

However, this veteran of Argentine clubs such as River Plate (which he joined at the age of 12) and San Lorenzo realises that the coaching game is even tougher than a player's.

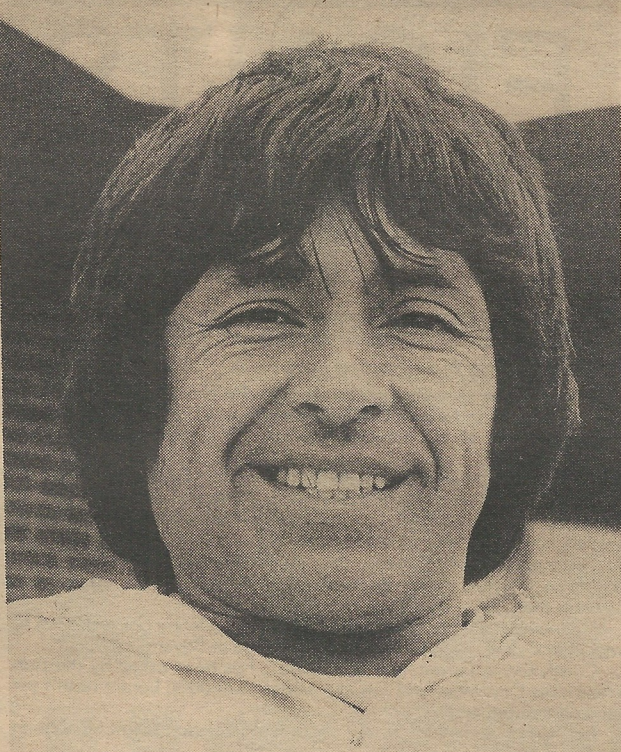
He believes that the aim of a coach is to be firm but fair and his views are presented with the philosophic candor of a man who is a realist and has the confidence in himself to face the pressures of his job.

The self-effacing Fernandez is keen to project himself as another well-oiled cog in the Canberra City machine.

"I am not interested in publicity.

"If I were I could have sought it long ago.

"The main thing is that one day when I leave I would like to know that I have been a success."



Vic Fernandez

ADELAIDE NEWS

Dixie Deans, Adelaide City striker served a one-match suspension imposed by the SASF disciplinary committee plus a \$200 fine from his own club as a result of a punch that he threw during a scuffle in the penalty box during the Azzurri-City match on February 6.

SASF president Dr. Arthur Zaikos (former West Adelaide chairman) last week announced plans for a multi-million dollar soccer complex at West Beach. The complex will house three soccer grounds, apart from the main stadium. The stadium's capacity will be 40,000, with covered ground stand seating of 25,000. The project is expected to be completed in time for the World Youth Cup finals in 1981.

Adelaide City has signed the dynamic South Melbourne winger, Chris Kent. City coach Rale Rasic spoke very highly of Kent's abilities and said that he would be a major acquisition for the club. So far this season City have signed Bobby Russell from Sydney

Croatia, Glenn Dodds from New Zealand and John Spanos from Perth. On the social side the Adelaide City clubrooms are open to the public from Tuesday to Sunday. From noon restaurant and bar facilities are available. The clubrooms are housed under the Olympic Sports Field Grandstand.

Clubroom manager Ennio Damiani said that Sunday evenings are for families featuring special family entertainment. The monthly \$1000 prize raffle, consisting of 100 tickets at \$20 each, was announced on February 17.

West Adelaide's Con Kambas has settled his differences with the club and finally re-signed last week. The club has not made any major signing at this stage, nor do club officials admit of any, but, if my information is correct, the club may shortly drop a bombshell, with an announcement regarding the signing of two top European players.

Flying to England about May this year? Then why not go and

watch the FA Cup final and more for the same economy fare. If interested, contact "The Goal" Soccer Shop in Twin Street, Adelaide. Phone 223-1557.

The SA division of the Australian Referees' Federation is holding a course for cadet referees, from 15 years and over, and for seniors, at Hindmarsh Stadium, starting on Tuesday, February 27. For further information contact the secretary, George Docherty. Phone 296-5468 (after hours).

Rothmans League second division club West Torrens-Birkalla is aiming for the first division this coming season. They have hired former Juventus and Marconi coach Mario Danieli to take the reins; John Rikus and Dave Hemingway will assist him.

Within a month their new clubrooms will be completed at Camden Oval. This season the

club will receive financial support from firms such as MLC Fire Insurance, Socormin Foods, "Ferrero" the Mutella people, West Side Motors and SA Plumbing. Among those responsible for the club's success are Paul Dimella, Lou Hlawka, Tony Mazzone and Mrs. Barbara Barnett.

In a semifinal of the Ampol Cup, West Adelaide beat Adelaide City 3-1.

West Adelaide, playing very well, scored all three goals in the first 23 minutes.

It's clear that the 1978 champions will be a very major force once again in the PSL.

The second semifinal of the Ampol Cup will be played this Friday, February 23, at Hindmarsh Stadium between Eastern District Azzurri and Croatia; the match will kick off at 8.00pm. The winner of this match will meet West Adelaide on Friday, March 2.

—Vic Migliaccio

WISLA HELD IN ADELAIDE

—By ALLAN CRISP in Adelaide—

Spectators who arrived late and left early would have missed both goals when SA drew 1-1 with Wisla Krakow at Hindmarsh Stadium on February 13.

Wisla grabbed the lead in the very first minute of the game through their elegant mid-fielder Leszek Lipka, but SA substitute David Leane notched a warranted equaliser in the final second.

Referee Donald Campbell sounded the final whistle before the ball could be taken back to the centre and SA retained their unbeaten record against visiting Polish teams.

SA wrecked Legia Warsaw's unbeaten four record with a 2-1 win in 1975.

Perturbed Wisla coach Orest Lenczyk said after the game: "I congratulate you on your moral victory, but this was a most unsatisfactory performance by my team."

Wisla certainly failed to force home the advantage of their early lead as they preferred, for long periods, to play possession soccer.

SA, to their ever-lasting credit, shrugged off their initial set-back to pester Wisla with a pleasing brand of fast, aggressive football.

SA coach Edmund Kretz must be accorded high praise for overcoming a series of selection traumas to achieve a commendable result.

An injury to David Jones (ankle) and a last-minute edict from the Australian Soccer Federation that Jimbo Muir (not cleared from his Scottish club Dumbarton), was ineligible, left SA without a recognised centre-back.

Kretz's plan to use John Perin as a sweeper was also thwarted when Perin withdrew because of a groin injury.

Bugsy Nyskohus and Neil McGachey effectively filled the central defensive roles after the horrendous start to keep Wisla goalless for the remaining 89 minutes.

Nyskohus, McGachey, Barry Reynolds and Vic Bozanic were superbly supported by Martyn Cook who gave another fine goalkeeping display.

Peter Boyle led SA's mid-field charge, aided by Henry Kolecki and Agenor Muniz.

Up front SA had Dixie Deans, Johnny Nyskohus and Ian McGregor to carry their scoring hopes, but it finally took the superior height of Leane to head their dramatic last ditch goal.

Polish World Cup player Henryk Maculewicz and Michael Wrobel showed their class, but on the night Wisla's best performers were Marek Motyka, Lipka and Janusz Krupinski.

SA: Crook, Reynolds, B. Nyskohus, McGachey, Bozanic, Boyle (Leane 68m), Kolecki, Deans, Muniz, J. Nyskohus, McGregor.

WISLA: Ganet, Motyka, Maculewicz, Plaszewski, Budka (Gazda 68m), Lipka, Kapka (Skrobowski 68m), Nawalka (Jalocha 73m), Kmiecik, Krupinski, Wrobel (Jargocz 73m).

Goals: 0-1 Lipka (1m), 1-1 Leane (90m). Referee: Donald Campbell. Crowd: 7300.

HILLS MOVE MOUNTAINS

Well before the start of the 1978 season an article appeared in Soccer World under the heading: "The Hills Are Alive".

It proved to be a prophetic article. The Baulkham Hills side was very much alive and kicking; so much so that they hit the competition lead before the half-way mark and did not surrender it from that point on.

This brought them a well deserved promotion to the Second Division in the new format of the NSW competition.

The club is a relative newcomer to Federation football. It was admitted to Third Division Inter-Suburban in 1973 where it finished in sixth place.

The following year Baulkham Hills won their competition and duly repeated the dose in 1975, which took them into First Division Inter-Suburban.

During the period 1975-76, the dreaded disease known as the "Coaches Syndrome" struck: in quick succession three senior coaches came and went.

Happily, in 1977, under the astute and energetic leadership of the new chairman, Ken Smith and his right-hand man, Ron Burns, common sense returned.

The coaching position was stabilised, with the original men-

tor, Vic Renkovetsky, given full control along with instructions to gain promotion within two years.

This was accomplished last year. The club is looking eagerly to this season as it embarks on a new and challenging mission: fielding three senior and three junior Federation teams.

All of the Baulkham Hills junior coaches are bursting at the seams with pride and the anticipation of preparing their charges for the eventual participation in senior football.

The Baulkham Hills Club is a true, non-ethnic, Australian organisation with over 60 soccer teams to its name.

With the shire council and a number of local businessmen right behind it, they have every reason to feel confident about the future.

The successful committee and coach have been unanimously re-elected for 1979 and the majority of its winning team will be there too.

There is room for well-credentialed players to join a fine organisation and enjoy a good game, amenities of a modern clubhouse and the beautiful setting of Ted Horwood Reserve which is the home ground right across the road from the licensed club.



Baulkham Hills' victorious 1978 first grade team, left to right, top: S. Corbett, J. Gough, S. Chapman, B. Walker, T. Crone, J. Martin. Front row: P. Hartlev, G. Cook, S. Davidson, J. Huie, H. Gough, J. Moreland, J. Geppert, V. Renkovetsky (coach), G. Woods and ballboys.

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BAYERN FIGHTS CRISIS



Sepp Maier: "Csernai is a good coach."

The crisis in Bayern Munchen continues and is certain to bring many more surprises.

The latest news is that president Wilhelm Neudecker has offered the managership to former star Uli Hoeness who, at 27, is thinking of quitting because of his nagging injuries. He is now on loan to FC Nurnberg.

There could be strings attached to this offer: Bayern would like to secure Uli's brother, Dieter, 25, from Stuttgart, who had earlier announced that he wouldn't play for the Bavarians because of the way they had treated his more famous brother.

There is also a slim chance that the Neudecker millions may bring back from Cosmos Franz Beckenbauer, whose contract expires this season in the USA.

Meanwhile, the intrigues and backbiting — clearly not restricted to Australian soccer — continue with vehemence in Bayern.

Coach Gyula Lorant, on "sick leave", has been asked by the club to return his December and January wages (\$20,000); Lorant hasn't yet even commented on this.

But he had something to say about his successor, fellow Hungarian Paul Csernai.

"He would be OK for a junior reserve team," Lorant said scathingly of the man he had himself chosen two years ago as his assistant.

At least he hasn't been slapped in the face yet by Lorant's mother, as it happened in Sydney under very similar circumstances three years ago.

"If Lattek or Weisweiler voiced such an opinion, I'd be concerned," Csernai commented, "but Lorant..."

Meanwhile Gerd Mueller, in terrible form, told newsmen that "nobody in Munchen loved him".

Breitner is intriguing against Mueller and ex-coach Lorant but gets on with Csernai.

Said goalie Sepp Maier: "Csernai is a good coach. After the paternalistic era of Dettmar Cramer and the intolerance of Lorant, Csernai represents sanity and balance."

"He is firm but fair. I'd accept criticism even if I had 200 caps. It's par for the course."

Spanish invasion

Since they opened their doors in 1973 Spanish clubs have imported 165 foreign players.

Now the Spanish Federation, despite the protests of almost all clubs, is considering a ban on all foreigners.

According to the excellent Barcelona magazine "Don Balon", about \$10,000,000 has been spent by their clubs on

transfer fees. The highest was that of Cruyff, at \$1 million, followed by Krankl, Bonhof, Bertoni, Breitner, Neeskens, Stielike, Jensen, Kempes, Netzer, Rep, Keita and Heredia, the last being a modest \$85,000.

• A newspaper article in West Germany exposes the hypocrisy in their amateur divisions proving that transfer fees, signing on fees and salaries are all commonplace among the German lilywhites.

• Paolo Rossi, the brilliant young Italian striker, is unlikely to end his career with the small Lanerossi Vicenza club despite the similarity of their names. "I like it here but wouldn't mind playing for Juventus or AC Milan," he said.

• Toni Turek, one of the heroes of Germany's 1954 World Cup wins, was 60 last week. He told reporters that all members of the 1954 team received a total of \$800 for the series — including the victorious final.

• All-time Scottish great Denis Law claims that his country has only one world class player — Andy Gray, from Aston Villa.

• Because of the many postponements due to bad weather, for the next few weeks Bundesliga matches will also be played on Wednesdays in West Germany.

• Luis Cesar Menotti, now with the Buenos Aires club of San Lorenzo, turned down a rich bid from Paris FC, offering him a four-year contract. "Paris is a pleasant city for a few months but to stay there for four years..." Menotti said.

• Marconi aren't the only ones to lose the sponsorship of an Italian-based booze company: Germany's Kaiserslautern and Campari have severed relations. However, the Germans have already lined up a large business house as their next financial godfather, to the tune of \$210,000 a year plus a \$22,000 bonus if they win the title.

• "Juventus still lack a brilliant midfield general and I could fill this role for them as earlier Capello had," so says the modest, though really brilliant, Fiorentina star, Antognoni, keen to change to the Turin club.

• Yugoslavia's international program for 1979: March 14, against East Germany; April 1, Cyprus; April 25, Hungary; June 13, Italy; September 16, Argentina; October 10, Spain; October 31, Rumania; and November 14, Cyprus again.

• Czechoslovakia's national team had mixed fortunes on its Argentinian tour. After losing 3-2 to Bergano of Cordoba, they beat Inter of Mendoza 6-0, lost 4-1 to River Plate and beat Boca Juniors 3-2. "It was a marvellous preparation for 1978," said manager Joe Venglos.

• Asked to name the best three non-Argentinian players of the 1978 World Cup, Argentine manager Menotti picked Krol (Holland), Torcosik (Hungary) and Bettaga (Italy).

• Keith Weller, the former England star of Leicester, has signed for the New England Team — at a \$620,000 transfer fee.

• Barcelona know how to sign a special contract with Spanish TV: They will collect \$200,000 for the global telecast of their match against Real Madrid, played last Sunday.

• PSV Eindhoven, the Philips team, have signed young Dutch international star Piet Wildschut, 21, from FC Twente.

• Ex-international Fabio Capello, recovering from a fracture, has accepted a new contract to stay with AC Milan next season. Apart from playing, he will also coach junior teams.

• West Germany's Olympic team striker, Ulrich Wieland, has turned pro with Borussia Monchengladbach — at the ripe old age of 32.

• "If Trevor Francis is worth \$1,500,000, then you can't put a tag on Kevin Keegan. He is the best player in the world," said England manager Ron Greenwood after his team's easy 4-0 win over Northern Ireland. Keegan played brilliantly and his partnership with Brookings has been described as "telepathic".

• New York Cosmos are hopeful of signing Chilean star Carlos Caszely who had a spell in Spain a few seasons ago.

• Ron Harris, Chelsea's iron-man, 34, has played his 600th game for the Pensioners.

• Pat Jennings played his 75th international for Northern Ireland against England.

• The US pro league season will be the longest on record in 1979: It will start on March 24 and end on September 8. The early start will greatly inconvenience many clubs who cannot use English players until after April, when the British season ends.

• Bologna is considering their ex-star Helmut Haller for the post of technical director. He would be probably known as "H.H.3" after Helenio Herrera and Heriberto Herrera, earlier managers of crack Italian teams.

• Franz Beckenbauer is demanding a fee of \$22,000 from a German publishing firm which has used his photo in a calendar.

• Two players and an official of the Italian amateur club, Stella Azzurra, received 42-month prison sentences for bashing up a referee who had to be hospitalised with several fractures.

• Jimmy Armfield, the former Leeds boss, may be the new England Youth team manager, replacing Brian Clough who wants out because of his club commitments.

• Former Dortmund and Duisburg star Theo Buecker is now playing for Ittehad Sporting Club Jeddah, in Saudi Arabia, alongside former Swedish star Sjoberg. Coach is Dettmar Cramer, former FIFA coach and Bayern supremo.

• In the latest computer ranking based on results, forms and performances, West Bromwich Albion are rated as Europe's No. 1 team.

• "Liam Brady is a fantastic player; if he wanted to be world class, he should play in Europe," says Kevin Keegan. "He is every bit as good as Trevor Francis. George Best could have been the greatest of all times but he blew it."

• New York Cosmos hasn't given up hope of signing Johan Cruyff despite the Dutch star's "firm" decision to retire: They offered him \$4 million to sign just for one year.



Diego Maradona, the hottest property in star-ridden Argentine soccer.

MARADONA: WORLD STAR

Diego Maradona, a dark-faced 18-year-old, is the toast of Buenos Aires soccer.

The brilliant striker of the small Argentinos Juniors club could well have a \$1 million before he is 20; Napoli, Juventus and Barcelona are bidding for his services and so is the local giant, River Plate.

"Maradona's style is unique," says Argentina's soon to depart manager, Menotti.

"Some of his movements appeal to those who are nostalgic about the beautiful football of yesterday."

"At the same time he is modern, athletic, explosive. Some compare him to the young Sivori."

"I'd say he is between Pele and Puskas. But in reality, he is unique."

Maradona, destined to be a world star, 18 last October 30, is already the family's main breadwinner.

Recently he sent his parents on their first holiday ever. "I'm thrilled I could do this, after all the sacrifices they had made for me."

SIMONSEN WILL QUIT

Borussia Monchengladbach's "great" little Dane, Allan Simonsen, will definitely leave the club after May.

"I join a new club where the money is right and the people are nice," he said this week.

"I had six marvellous years here

with Borussia and I know I'll never find a better organised club anywhere in the world."

"But six years was enough."

The scramble for Simonsen's signature will be intense and ultimately very expensive.

Spanish, French, Dutch, Italian and Belgian clubs will make a beeline for his services — and the rich Americans are certain to join the rush.

"I wouldn't mind playing for Hamburg, which is so close to Denmark but I doubt if they can afford me," he said.

Well, perhaps not. Borussia are reportedly ready to accept \$850,000 for him if he stays in Germany — but want \$1,200,000 if he goes to a foreign club.

With Borussia he earns about \$150,000 a year but some Spanish and Italian clubs would guarantee him anything up to \$250,000 — a fortune for the ex-amateur of the small provincial Danish club Vejle.



Drifting Poles

Polish players are now cashing in on the success of the national team over the past six years.

More and more stars are playing abroad, and their coaches, too, are in demand.

Polish regulations say no player can be transferred abroad until he is 30, but the likes of Tomaszewski and Deyna still have much to offer despite reaching that dreaded soccer age.

Jan Tomaszewski is now the star of Beerschot in Belgium; also in Belgium is the former national hero, Wlodek Lubanski — with Lokeren.

Henryk Kasprczak is starring for Metz in France and Jan Wrazy, also an international, is with Valenciennes.

Manchester City were quick to contact Legia Warsaw about Kazimierz Deyna after the World Cup and FC Bruges would like to sign Andrzej Szarmach, of Wisla Krakow, but he isn't old enough to leave yet.

In 1974, Poland had two dynamic wingers, Robert Gadocha and Grzegorz Lato. Gadocha went to France, and Lato could have joined any number of Western European clubs, had the authorities released him.

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